

WASHINGTON, DC - As the President continues his campaign to privatize Social Security, Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez hosted an online town hall to answer constituent questions about this critical government program. Congresswoman Sánchez decided to convene an online town hall in an effort to engage more young people around the issue of Social Security and brought together over 75 students from area colleges (Cerritos College, Rio Honda Community College, Long Beach City College, Cal State University-Long Beach, and East Los Angeles Community College-South Gate Campus). Most participant questions raised centered around participant concerns about the President's privatization proposal.

"We had some really great questions," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez. "The overwhelming response proves that privatization is a real concern for the people of the 39th district, especially young people. I am very pleased to utilize the internet as a tool to engage and communicate directly with my constituents even from 3,000 miles away," added Sánchez.

The Administration has been targeting young people in their Social Security sales pitch and claims that young people can expect to be shortchanged by Social Security as it is today and insists that privatization is the only way to guarantee that they get some benefits. Contrary to that, Social Security will be able to pay 100% of promised benefits for at least the next half century. The only guarantees the Bush privatization plan offers young people are a guarantee their benefits will be cut, the national debt will increase and retirement security will be lost.

"As a young person myself, I will continue to fight to strengthen and improve Social Security for America's young workers. We want to ensure that every American working today will get the secure retirement they have earned through a lifetime of hard work. Social Security is the only safe and secure source of retirement income for millions of Americans, and it must be protected."

This was Congresswoman Sánchez' third forum on Social Security this year. In March, the Congresswoman held two Social Security forums in the 39th District (South Gate and Lakewood) where she was able to directly respond to the Social Security concerns of her constituents.

"Young people have the most at stake, because any benefit cut will hit them the hardest," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "Social Security is not just about retirees. It's about honoring the hard work of everyone who has paid into the system, young and old alike. We have all paid in with an understanding that someday, Social Security will be there for us and I will work to ensure that the government maintains this guarantee," concluded Sánchez.

The text of Congresswoman Sánchez' e-town hall can be accessed at [www.lindasanchez.house.gov/etownhall](http://www.lindasanchez.house.gov/etownhall)